

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-16 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer and reconsider the claims in accordance with the following:

1-16 (CANCELLED)

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An apparatus for providing a tracking error signal for an optical disk recording track, comprising:

a plurality of optical detectors each of which generates an electrical signal,

a matrix circuit which selects and adds said electrical signals in pairs to output at least one matrixed signal, each said pair corresponding to optical information detected along a line diagonal to said recording track;

a circuit which binarizes each matrixed signal;

a phase lock loop circuit receiving a first clock signal and each matrixed signal, the phase lock loop circuit outputting second and third clock signals synchronized with the respective matrixed signals; and

a phase detector which compares a phase of the second synchronized clock signal with a phase of the third synchronized clock signal to generate the tracking error signal, wherein the tracking error signal is independent of a length of pits and/or marks on the optical disk recording track.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising first and second equalizers which increase a high frequency component of respective ones of the matrixed signals prior to respectively binarizing said matrixed signals.

19-21 (CANCELLED)